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Brian W. Hameder Name

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:

Kazuyuki Matsumoto et al.

SERIAL NO:

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) Group Art Unit: 3724

FILED:

September 26, 2001

) Examiner: J. Windmuller

TITLE:

Method and Apparatus for Cutting a Sheet-Shaped Material

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated February 5, 2003 and having a shortened statutory period for reply set to expire on May 5, 2003. Applicant submits the following responsive amendment in the above-identified application. Applicant believes this amendment places the application in better condition for allowance. Applicant's remarks are attached hereto and start on page 2.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the attached amended claims.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the abstract with the attached amended abstract.